

Jordan Times

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جordan Times Foundation

UNRWA says officials to be freed soon

BEIRUT (R) — The director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Lebanon said Saturday that two kidnapped Scandinavian colleagues would be released soon. "We are confident that our kidnapped colleagues will be released soon," Per Olof Hallquist said in a statement after talks with local leaders aimed at easing the men's three-week ordeal. "William Joergensen and Jan Stening are two hard-working men who have never been involved in any kind of irregular activities. The kidnap from the beginning to its happy end, expected shortly, has been one big serious mistake," said Hallquist, a Swede. Stening, 44, of Sweden, and Joergensen, 57, a Norwegian, were seized near the southern city of Sidon on February 5. Hallquist issued his statement after talks in Sidon with Mustapha Saad, the head of the Popular Liberation Army, which controls the town. He later left for Vienna to meet other senior UNRWA officials. On Friday the previously unknown "Revolutionary Cells" group issued a statement, the third by a group claiming to hold the UNRWA staffers, saying it was questioning them and would release them when the interrogation was over (see page 2).

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Andreotti in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived from Damascus Saturday on the second leg of a Middle East tour to discuss regional problems, including the Iran-Iraq war. Andreotti, who will spend two days in the kingdom, was welcomed by his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal. In a departure statement before leaving Damascus Andreotti said he discussed the full range of Middle East crises with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharqi. He said he would report back to other European leaders on his talks. Andreotti also met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

5 resistance men killed in attack on SLA

SIDON (R) — A militia said five of its fighters were killed in a four-pronged attack Saturday against positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia east of the southern town of Sidon. The Popular Liberation Front (PLA), headed by Mustapha Saad, said its guerrillas used machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in a clash with the SLA on four fronts near the village of Kfar Falous. One SLA tank and other military vehicles and fortifications were destroyed in the attack, the PLA statement added.

Israeli vessel harasses businessmen

AMMAN (AP) — Prominent Egyptian and Jordanian businessmen said Saturday they were harassed in the Red Sea by an Israeli boat carrying armed men. The incident occurred at about 5 p.m. Friday as more than 60 businessmen were returning to Aqaba from an excursion to Faroun Island, 35 kilometres south, Egyptian businessman Mohammad Ghanem said. "The Israeli boat came too close to us, as if trying to block our way," he said. "Our captain made a sharp turn trying to avoid a collision." Ghanem headed the Egyptian delegation in a meeting with prominent Jordanian businessmen to promote trade ties. A Jordanian businessman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli vessel with 10 armed people aboard made "a couple of turns around us, causing high waves. I am sure they meant to scare us. "We knew they were Israeli. There were things written in Hebrew on the boat."

Iran executes 5

NICOSIA (AP) — Five people accused of planting bombs in Iran were sentenced to death and executed Saturday, Tehran Television reported. The television did not identify the five nor say whether they were among 30 people arrested by security men for their responsibility in planting bombs in Tehran and western Iran in recent weeks. The television broadcast said: "The Islamic revolutionary court announced that five agents related to the global arrogance who were accused of planting bombs that caused some death and injuries, were sentenced to death and executed Saturday evening." It gave no other details. But Iranian leaders and the news media usually refer to the superpowers as global arrogance.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz (second from left) head the Jordanian and American sides to talks Saturday in Amman. The

Jordanian side included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (second from right) and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh while the U.S. side included Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy (third from left)

Photo by Yousef Al Allan

Shultz discusses American ideas with Jordan, Syria

By Lamis K. Andoni with agency dispatches

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday discussed the new American initiative for peace in the Middle East with Jordanian and Syrian leaders.

Shultz flew to Amman early Saturday and held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and left for an Israeli port city of Haifa in the day and met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

No joint statements were issued either in Amman or in Damascus, but Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said in a statement Jordan was committed to its call for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statements at a news conference Wednesday night, the state radio said he was

(Continued on page 3)

Shultz fails to reach agreement with Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharqi said Saturday they had failed to reach agreement on a new U.S. Middle East peace initiative after intensive talks here.

"We expressed our opinion in a frank and open way but no

agreement was reached," Sharqi said at Damascus airport as the secretary of state prepared to leave for Israel after a meeting with President Hafez Al Assad. "I will just underline what the foreign minister said," Shultz replied. "We did not reach any agreement."

Iraqi planes bomb Iranian oil refineries

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said waves of its fighter-bombers attacked Iran's key oil refineries in Tehran and other cities Saturday in strikes aimed at crippling Iran's economy.

Iran vowed to retaliate against Baghdad and the southern Iraqi port city of Basra for the attack on its capital, the first in several months.

But an Iraqi military spokesman warned that if any Iraqi city was hit "all Iranian cities, including Tehran, will become targets for our missiles, air force jets and other weapons."

Tehran Radio said at least one person was killed and an undisclosed number were wounded in the raid on the capital's southern suburbs, but made no mention of other raids.

Saturday's raids raised anew the spectre of both sides renewing their intermittent "war of the cities" in which thousands of civilians have been killed since 1984.

The Iraqi raids marked a sharp escalation in the stalemated seven-year-old Gulf war and came as Iraq's army braced for new Iranian ground offensives.

Tehran radio and the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the air raids took place just before noon (0900 GMT).

IRA reported the Iranian refineries were "destroyed... and shattered" and left shrouded in flames and smoke.

It did not give the location of the plant but diplomatic sources in Baghdad, in touch with embassies in Tehran, said the target was

veering away from the 1978 Camp David formula and looking for a comprehensive settlement because of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Syria saw in this "a great change in American policy which might lead to positive results," the radio said.

Prior to his departure from Amman after his four-hour visit, Shultz described his talks here as "constructive and thorough."

In comments to journalists at Marka airport, Shultz expressed appreciation for "the warm welcome" accorded to him and other

(Continued on page 3)

Kaufman suggests British bid for peace talks

LONDON (Agencies) — The British government should step in to break the Arab-Israeli deadlock if U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz can't get agreement for an international peace conference during his Middle East tour, a foreign affairs spokesman for the opposition Labour Party said Saturday.

"Everybody who cares about the security and reputation of Israel must despair at the latest scenes of brutality by Israeli servicemen on the West Bank," Gerald Kaufman said.

A CBS-TV film clip broadcast on British Television Friday showed Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank kicking two Palestinians in the head and chest before trying to break their limbs with rocks (see page 2).

"Every time such scenes are shown on television, they do further damage to Israel," Kaufman said.

"The only way of ending these damaging events is for a peace settlement which provides security for Israel with self-determination for the Palestinians in their own country."

The Iranian air force, despite chronic shortages of spares that have grounded most of its aging U.S.-made F-4 and F-5 planes, has also been in action recently, mainly attacking Iraqi defences and supply dumps around Basra.

Two more killed, dozens injured in Palestinian revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians were fatally shot and scores wounded in violent clashes with Israeli soldiers Saturday, and hundreds of Israeli Arabs demonstrated in solidarity with their brethren in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Anti-Israeli protests erupted throughout the occupied territories Saturday, a day after four Palestinians were shot dead. In the Arrub refugee camp south of Bethlehem, soldiers fired teargas and live ammunition to disperse stone-throwing protesters, camp residents said.

A 20-year-old Arrub man, identified as Nihad Abdul Ghafour, died of gunshot wounds, said Dr. Hani Abdeen of Jerusalem's Mukassed hospital where the body was taken.

Abdeen said he treated 12 residents of Arrub and the nearby villages Halhoul and Dhahtiriyah for gunshot wounds. Five Arrub residents suffered broken limbs after being beaten by soldiers, he said.

Aleia hospital said it was

attacked by soldiers

in a vain attempt to save Bao's life as the battle raged around the hospital between soldiers firing live ammunition and tear-gas and dozens of stone-throwing Palestinians. Relatives snatched the body and disappeared with it outside.

Wounded demonstrators, including a boy with a bloody stump where a finger had been, staggered into Aleia hospital as ops besieged the building for at least two hours.

The clash in Halhoul began

when stone-throwing protesters

brandishing the Palestinian flag

were confronted by soldiers who fired an unidentified red gas.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) identified the victim as baker Abdullah Al Bao, 17.

Aleia hospital officials also said they treated 15 Palestinians for gunshot wounds following protests in Halhoul, Arrub and Dhahtiriyah.

The deaths brought to 74 the

unofficial death toll since the

Palestinian uprising began Dec. 9.

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A Palestinian, his hands bound, is surrounded by Israeli soldiers as he sits on the pavement after being arrested in Nablus

15 killed in Turkish plane crash in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A Turkish Boeing 727 crashed into mountains near the coastal resort city of Kyrenia in northern Cyprus Saturday, killing all 15 people aboard, rescue officials reported.

The charter plane crashed 10 minutes before landing at Ercan airport, on the landward side of the mountains, in the Turkish Cypriot sector of the island, airport officials said.

There was no immediate word on what caused the crash at 10:20 a.m. (0820 GMT) 12.8 kilometres east of Kyrenia.

Abyan Bolay, director of civil aviation in Turkey's Communications Ministry, said in Ankara that the weather was clear and communications were normal with the control tower at Ercan.

In his last message to the tower, the pilot said: "I want to see the runway as I land," Bolay told reporters.

"Please confirm you sighted the runway," the tower responded and then radio contact with the plane was lost, he reported.

Officials said the plane was on a flight from Istanbul to pick up a group of Finnish tourists for a flight to Helsinki via Istanbul to lease a further six 727s.

Leap day — getting the calendar back on time

By Randolph E. Schmid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Like Olympiads and U.S. presidential elections, leap day comes but once in four years. Monday's calendar adjustment, like setting a watch back in the fall to get an extra hour, adds a day in the year to keep in tune with nature.

For people born on prior February 29ths, it's an eagerly awaited chance to celebrate that doesn't occur every year. For some aged 80, perhaps having to list only 20 birthdays is a joy.

Others anxious for adulthood struggle to prove that five birthdays makes them old enough to vote and drive a car. Indeed, the problem was crucial for Frederick, the hero of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," a young man born Feb. 29 and indentured until his 21st birthday.

For both the fun and frustration of this added day, render unto Julius Caesar the blame that is his.

Caesar wanted to make the calendar accurate, and it almost worked.

The day is designed to compensate for the fact that calendars count in whole days, 365 or 366 depending on the year, while it takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to get around the sun.

Adding an extra day every fourth year helped compensate for that difference of about a quarter day, but problems became obvious as the Romans' inaccurate calendar got three months out of line with the seasons.

So, in 46 B.C., known ever since as the "Year of Confusion," Caesar added 67 days to the calendar to set it right again. And to keep the calendar accurate, he instituted the system of slipping in one more day on Feb. 29.

That reform, suggested by the Roman astronomer Sosigenes, became part of what is known as the Julian calendar and remained

in use for centuries.

"There was one small problem: Sosigenes had done a little too much rounding off," explained Gail S. Cleere of the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Sosigenes had estimated the year at 365.25 days, while it really was 365.2422 days. That means Sosigenes was about 11 minutes off over the course of a year.

"Although Caesar and his astronomer were long gone before anyone noticed it, some 1,500 years later, 11 minutes per year had added up to a whopping 10 days," Cleere said. "And so, the seasons were slipping backwards again — spring into winter, winter into fall, and so on."

That prompted the current calendar, instituted by Pope Gregory in 1582, who dropped the offending 10 days — a change that took a while to be accepted in non-Catholic countries. Indeed, England and her colonies didn't join in until 1752, by which time the error had grown to 11 days. Japan came over in 1873, China

Kidnappers promise to free UNRWA officials after 'interrogation'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The kidnappers of two Scandinavian officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have said they would free the men after they have been interrogated.

"We are still interrogating them in light of preliminary information," a hand-written Arabic language statement said. "We promise everybody that we shall release them once the investigation is over."

The statement, signed by the Revolutionary Cells and delivered to a Western news agency in west Beirut late Friday, gave no timetable for freeing Jan Stening, 44, of Sweden and William Jorgensen, 58, of Norway.

The statement was the third purportedly issued by the kidnappers, but the first to identify the previously unknown group holding the missing men.

They were kidnapped Feb. 5 near Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, as they were driving from the ancient port city of Tyre to Beirut.

The statement, headed "communiqué No. 3," was similar to the earlier ones which said the U.N. officials were seized for interrogation in connection with alleged links to an unnamed foreign secret service.

Friday's statement carried what appeared to be the signatures of Stening and Jorgensen as well as their purported fingerprints, as the earlier statement had.

But the latest statement also included messages written in En-

glish, apparently by the two captives.

One message above Stening's signature said: "I am in good health and I hope that I will be released soon."

The other, purportedly written by Jorgensen, said: "I am in good health and am eating good. Also I hope to be released very soon."

The statement raised hopes that a breakthrough had been achieved in negotiations to free the two officials.

It came after U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding said in Stockholm that the two Scandinavians were caught up in an "internal conflict" which had nothing to do with their work for UNRWA, which cares for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to the bare minimum following the abductions.

"I'm not sure it (the abduction) was directed against either UNRWA or the individuals. It may be the very unfair involvement of UNRWA staff in some internal conflict," said Goulding.

When asked to elaborate, he said he had said more than he intended. "No further details. I've already broken my rule," he said.

He refused to identify the kidnappers and declined comment when asked if they were Palestinians or Lebanese.

UNRWA spokesmen had earlier blamed the abductions on Palestinians acting independently of guerrilla organisations and for personal motives."

"I don't know the names and addresses of the kidnappers," Goulding told a news conference. But he disagreed with the characterisation by a Swedish reporter of the abductors as "a small faction of hooligans."

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Higgins kidnap sharpens Amal-Hizbullah differences

TYRE (AP) — The kidnapping of a U.S. marine colonel has sharpened differences between rival militias vying for control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Muslims, the country's largest sect. Gulemen of the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbullah have clashed several times with the more secular Amal militia since Lieutenant-Colonel William R. Higgins was abducted Feb. 17 near this southern port by gunmen believed linked to Hizbullah.

Officials do not believe the confrontation will erupt into an all-out war between the two movements. But leaders of Amal view the kidnapping of Higgins a major challenge to their authority and to that of their main backer, Syria.

Higgins, 43, commanded the UNTSO, an observer group attached to the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon.

Amal has repeatedly denounced hostage-taking, and has



William Higgins

Shiite movements.

Amal has an estimated hardcore strength of 6,000 and Hizbullah 4,000, but both can mobilise thousands more fighters when needed.

Amal's leader, Justice Minister Nabih Berri, has not openly accused Hizbullah of kidnapping Higgins. But the abduction was claimed by the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth.

"They took the I.V. from my arm and threw me on the ground and started kicking me," said Amr Mohammad Mostapha Jamous, a 16-year-old treated for a bullet wound in the leg.

When soldiers began beating two men in her room, 39-year-old Rateeba Nimir Mahmoud Issa said she tried to help defend them.

"There was some food here (on a tray). I threw it on them," she said. "They hit me in the face with their hands."

Israeli soldiers were shown on U.S. and European television

play a role in freeing some foreign captives held by Hizbullah-linked Shiite extremists since 1984.

It has launched a major dragnet for Higgins and his kidnappers, a move that has angered the militant fundamentalists.

Heavily armed Amal fighters have rounded up 42 Hizbullah members in raids in the Tyre region. Amal sources asserted that six of them are "directly involved in the kidnapping."

"For us, the abduction of Higgins is a red line that others should not have crossed," said Daoud Daoud, Amal's senior military commander in South Lebanon.

"Amal views Higgins' abduction as a deliberate challenge. We want Higgins back."

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Israeli soldiers drag a Palestinian boy from his home in the West Bank

Israeli troops storm hospital, beat up Palestinian patients

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops stormed a hospital in the West Bank city of Nablus Thursday and beat patients and nurses, according to Palestinian witnesses.

Doctors said an Israeli officer told them at the time that the soldiers raided the Al Ittihad hospital after hearing a shot fired from the building.

Many doors were broken in the hospital, where more than 400 people have been treated for wounds since the Palestinian uprising began in the occupied territories Dec. 9.

Mahmoud Meshkha said that when he heard screams and panic, he pulled an intravenous drip from his arm and climbed onto a balcony to hide.

"Soldiers came into the room, but they didn't find anyone," said the 18-year-old, who was treated for a bullet wound in the leg.

When soldiers began beating two men in her room, 39-year-old Rateeba Nimir Mahmoud Issa said she tried to help defend them.

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ridor.

Ahmad Mahmoud Abdul Rahim Abu Layla, a 20-year-old suffering from obstruction of the veins after an appendectomy, was one of three patients dragged from hospital beds and into the street, he said.

Many doors were broken in the hospital, where more than 400 people have been treated for wounds since the Palestinian uprising began in the occupied territories Dec. 9.

Soldiers broke doors down, searched nurses' living quarters and the roof, Palestinian witnesses said. Later, two lorries and as many as 30 jeeps surrounded the hospital.

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Friday deliberately breaking the arms of Palestinians detained in Nablus.

The film shot by CBS news Thursday, in which soldiers systematically shattered two Palestinians' arms with rocks, sparked outrage when it was screened in Britain and France on Friday.

It took the soldiers 40 minutes to break the limbs of the Palestinians, who offered no resistance.

The senior Israeli commander in the West Bank, Major-General Amram Mitzna, said he personally ordered an immediate military police investigation.

The army flew CBS correspondent Bob Simon with military police investigators to Nablus to help identify the soldiers involved from the videotape.

Israel Radio said the Palestinians beaten in the Nablus incident had earlier thrown stones at soldiers.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said later: "We have watched the scenes on TV with shock and horror. We have consistently called upon the Israeli authorities to act in a humane manner.

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
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Agitators all

UNITED States President Ronald Reagan's statement during his news conference last week that there were "intimations" of outside agitators being partly responsible for inciting the violence on the West Bank and Gaza during the past three months strikes one, at first, as rather naive, even ignorant. But, on second thought, Mr. Reagan is probably correct. There are many outside agitators who have played a major role in inciting the violence.

There is, to begin with, the United States itself, which blindly refuses to accept the Palestinian uprising as an expression of a Palestinian national identity or a desire to be rid of the American-financed Israeli occupation.

There is Israel, which insists on trying to use force to quell the uprising, which only prompts the Palestinians to greater levels of defiance and nationalistic self-expression.

There is Great Britain, which started the ball rolling earlier this century by promising the land of Palestine to both Jews and Arabs; and when the extent of its untenable position became clear, it packed its bags and left the region rather ignominiously.

There is France, which colluded with Great Britain in the World War One years to slice up the Middle East into zones of influence and control, like two fat cats sharing a fish.

These outside agitators have been working, at one stage or another, separately or in shifting alliances, to maintain the century-long continuity of the denial of Palestinian national rights.

It is sad to hear an American president talk of outside agitators, and to say, as Mr. Reagan did, that "there is evidence that these riots are not spontaneous and home grown," when the United States government is trying to re-establish its credibility among the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute, and to attempt to mediate a negotiated solution. But then, perhaps he is right.

These "riots" are not home grown. They are the logical culmination of 80 years of the denial of the identity, the nationalism and the physical security of the people who call themselves Palestinians — a denial that has been largely manipulated by the hands of the governments of Israel, the United States, and, going back to the early days of the century, of France and Great Britain. Whether you call them great powers, or local powers, or outside agitators, does not make very much difference. They share the blame for allowing a historical injustice to develop, and to be perpetuated. Mr. Reagan and the Israelis simply compound the injustice, and their direct role in it, by looking for outside culprits on whom to pin the blame for a dynamic that have been intimately involved in for many decades. That's the problem with these outside agitators. They're blind to the truth.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Uprising escalates

THE Palestinian people's uprising Friday offered four martyrs who have now joined the line of heroes who sacrificed their lives for their land and nation. As the martyrs fell the Palestinians expressed more determination and resolve to pursue the struggle for liberating the Palestinian land from Israeli occupation. The Palestinians have extended their uprising to cover all towns and villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where the people are united in their efforts and their objectives, and in their continued struggle to evict the invaders from Palestinian land. Whether U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who had been in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied territory understood the Palestinian people's message or not the world realises that the martyrs fell as a result of Israel's intransigence and the Zionist policies in the occupied territory. Those martyrs chose the only way chosen by other peoples of the world who struggled for their freedom and liberation; and the Palestinian people as a whole are now going the same way and are maintaining the struggle for freedom. This people are proving to the world that no attempt to abort their struggle will ever succeed and that they preferred to die for the sake of freedom rather than succumb to the will of the enemy. The iron-fist policy with which Nazi Germany ruled Europe in the Second World War cannot and will not succeed in subjugating the Palestinians who are determined to live and to win their freedom.

Al Dostour: Did Shultz hear or see?

EIGHTY days have passed since the beginning of the uprising in the occupied Palestinian land where the Arab people sacrificed tens of martyrs and hundreds of wounded for the sake of freedom. The outcome of Friday's clashes was four more people killed at the hands of the Zionist rulers and Friday seemed as the first day of the uprising and indicated that the Palestinians are determined to pursue the struggle to the end regardless of the enemy's atrocities and crimes. But, it was noticed that the uprising has been increasing in intensity since the beginning of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's tour of the Middle East and it looks as though this uprising will continue to be stepped up all throughout the tour, as a clear sign for Washington that the Palestinian people are determined to gain their right and freedom regardless of U.S. support for Israel and its biased stand towards the Zionists. The uprising is also urging the Americans to join the rest of the world nations in demanding an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about peace in the Middle East region. Shultz who listened to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of the conference idea should have looked through the window to see the Arab people's determination on pursuing the struggle and offering sacrifices for their freedom. The U.S. should clearly understand the situation in our region and stop its opposition to the idea of the conference which is designed to bring us peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Shultz has nothing new

So far, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said nothing new, and all he said was a repetition of old and traditional American statements about the Middle East issue. This means that the U.S. stand remains within the Israeli circle, calling for direct negotiations with the Arabs, which Israel hopes will help her to make more gains. When Shultz mentioned U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, he failed to mention that these two resolutions should be implemented through an international conference and under the auspices of the United Nations which initiated these resolutions in the first place. Shultz is therefore echoing Washington's belief that direct talks between Israel and the Arabs constitute the safest and most proper means for a settlement. Shultz, asked the local Palestinian leaders to sit and talk with him over a settlement. But these leaders are determined to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and they have a new situation at their hands, represented in the uprising of the Palestinian people which Israel finds hard to put down. Shultz refuses to recognise these new circumstances and still insists on dealing with the Middle East with old ideas, reflecting those of the Israeli leadership.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Spend more, collect less, and avoid deficit

SOME economic analysts take a complex economic issue, deal with it from only one side, and make sweeping judgments.

When they happen to see another side in a different context, they do not hesitate to come up with different conclusions. They do not bother to make the effort of reconciling their contradicting views or, at least assigning weights to the competing factors which could be resolved only by the determination of the priorities.

A well-entrenched economic commentator recently defended more public expenditure. Such expenditure, he argued, is either developmental which will result in increased production and more jobs, or current which will produce services badly needed to raise the standard of living of the population. In both cases, he asserted, the public expenditure will activate the economy and revitalise the private sector. What the government spends, he added, forms income to the families and companies.

In another occasion we heard the same commentator pointing out the failure of the custodians of our economy in addressing the

chronic problem of fiscal deficit, and the heavy dependence on external and undependable sources. This fiscal failure lived with us for tens of years, he said, and no cure has been put forward or implemented.

Finally we read by the same commentator that local taxes has become very excessive, and beyond the capacity of the citizen to pay. Taxes he said were eating up everything, and creating disincentives to work and produce.

These three points of view were put forward in three different occasions, but within only two weeks. They are not wrong. They make good sense taken one at a time. The problem arises when all the three of them are put together. In that case the analyst must be embarrassed because the contradiction becomes apparent.

If we like to encourage the government to expand, or even maintain the present high level of public expenditure, we have to find the resources needed to fund such expenditure and make it possible. Those sources could not be anything other than domestic

revenue i.e., local taxes or loans to cover deficit.

The question is: How can anyone in his right mind ask the government to spend more, collect less, and avoid deficit which can be covered by either external borrowing which is dangerous, or local borrowing, which is crowding out the private sector?

These nice slogans may make good politics, but very bad economics. They should not go unaccounted for. Those who call for lower taxes must come up with these particular expenses they want to eliminate. Those who call for the reduction of budget deficit and rightly warn against borrowing abroad should have the courage to advocate lower expenditures and higher taxes or both. The exact expenditures and taxes should be pointed out.

For every economic policy or good aim there is a price which must be paid. We should not raise our voices calling for policies and targets that are good and acceptable, while hiding the price that must go hand in hand with these targets and that should be paid in order to achieve these targets.

Palestinians appear dug in for long struggle

By Jeffrey Bartholet

Reuter

RAMALLAH, West Bank — To dramatise his story, Jamal Kata-mi leans close to his listener, holds his nose, shuts his mouth and blows.

The sound that wheezes from his deaf left ear is meant to make the point: The Palestinians regard the Israeli occupation as brutal and are willing to make some sacrifices to end it.

Kata-mi, imprisoned by Israel after returning home in 1976 from Lebanon where he was trained by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), says an Israeli interrogator at the time pushed a pencil too far into his ear.

Like other Palestinians here, he insists that despite shootings, beatings and economic hardship, an 11-week uprising in the occupied territories will continue.

"I have checked and found out that the number of complaints raises the suspicion that classifying these incidents as exceptions no longer reflects the reality," Harish said in a letter to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

And in a letter made public Tuesday, Israel's army chief of staff Dan Shomron spelled out

they had lost all confidence in non-Palestinians being able to solve their problems and were taking matters into their own hands.

"It must continue," said Kata-mi, lying next to a kerosene heater in a shabby hotel. "Many people may be killed, but it will still continue, until they solve the Palestinian problem."

Another Palestinian, whose brother was shot in the head and killed in Ramallah, told reporters he was proud his brother would not be the last to fall, he said.

Israelis admit brutality

On Monday, Israel's attorney-general Yosef Harish said his office was being inundated by reports of soldiers illegally beating up Arabs during the uprising.

"I have checked and found out that the number of complaints raises the suspicion that classifying these incidents as exceptions no longer reflects the reality," Harish said in a letter to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

And in a letter made public Tuesday, Israel's army chief of staff Dan Shomron spelled out

guidelines for the use of force against civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Israeli soldiers must act with firmness and decisiveness along with self-control, restraint and sensitivity, according to the high norms of behaviour compelling Israeli soldiers and commanders," he said.

Shomron said soldiers could use force to disperse demonstrators or to overcome a civilian resisting arrest, but must avoid hitting people on their heads or other sensitive parts of the body.

Large demonstrations are expected during the peace mission to the region this week by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Shopkeepers in the territories have settled into a strike routine, opening for just three hours a day

Some people, especially from refugee camps, still go to work in Israel. But Palestinians dispute Israel's claim that a large majority of its Arab workforce is working normally.

The Israeli authorities say they hope the strike will backfire, causing economic problems that will break the Palestinians' resolve.

An Arab waiter in West Jerusalem who works for an Israeli hotel said he supported the strike but had to work.

"It's not a matter of money, it's food," he said. "I have six children. Who will feed them?"

A shopowner in Ramallah said he would strike until he and his five children were eating only bread. He, like others, drew historical parallels for the struggle.

"They ate the snakes until they had their freedom," he said.

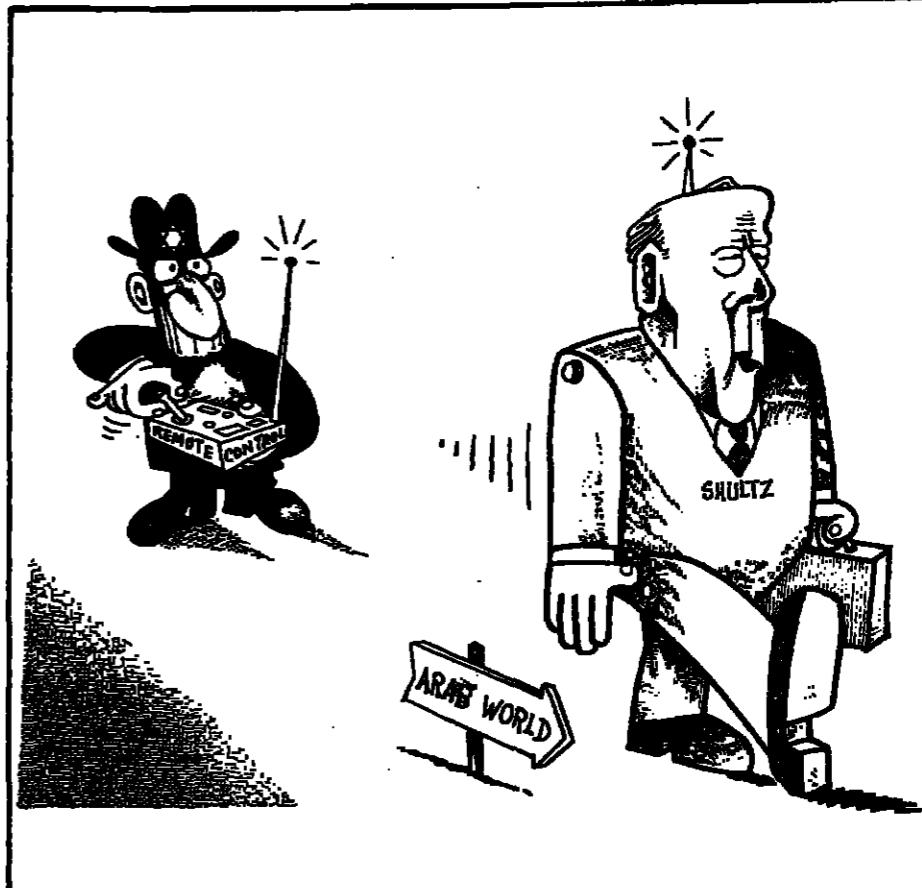
On his living room wall was a poster of a young woman with blood pouring from her head onto the grass of an open field. It was titled *Al Watan*, the homeland.

"We will get money from the PLO. If it is needed, they will supply it," he said.

The shopowner also told a story about a lorry taking donations of food to refugee camps in the West Bank. At each stop, he said, residents told the driver to take the food to more needy people.

"Israel says that some of the people do the strikes and protests," he said. "They do not know that all the people are united just like one man."

Some U.S. Arab allies have already warned Washington



Anti-American sentiment grows in the Arab media

By Ashraf Fouad

Reuter

BAHRAIN — A black-cloaked Israeli Jew steers a robot-like U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz by remote control, directing his moves on a Middle East peace mission.

The cartoon in the Saudi Arabian Asharq Al Awat daily reflected growing anti-American sentiment in normally pro-Western Arabic publications ahead of Shultz's arrival in the Middle East last Thursday.

The anti-American media campaign gathered steam earlier this month after Washington blocked two U.N. draft resolution condemning Israel and as new U.S. proposals to end the Arab-Israeli conflict failed to interest Arab leaders.

Western diplomats in the region forecast the media campaign would intensify during and after Shultz's visit because of general Arab rejection of his efforts to protect Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf to deter Iranian attacks.

"Our response to (the new) idea which America is trying to promote is negative... (Washington) is not fit to drive the train of

settlement," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam daily said.

"America must follow an American policy and not an Israeli policy," United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan said earlier this month.

In other, more conservative pro-Western Arab states like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, the media, which often reflects official views, have followed similar lines and one newspaper even accused the United States of being an enemy to the Arabs.

Washington's Middle East policy is built on "complete hatred towards the Arabs... and complete protection to the Zionist enemy despite his terrorist practices and barbaric acts," said Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej.

U.S. diplomats in the region dismiss the accusations and say Washington's image has improved in the region in recent months, especially since last July when the United States started protecting Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf to deter Iranian attacks.

"Our response to (the new) idea which America is trying to promote is negative... (Washington) is not fit to drive the train of

settlement," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam daily said.

Arab rejection of Washington's handling of the Middle East is giving Moscow opportunities for diplomatic advantage in the region.

To the surprise of many diplomats, the director of the Middle East desk at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Polyakov, held talks in Riyadh last week.

It was believed the first visit by a senior Kremlin official to Saudi Arabia in 50 years.

Relations worsening over N. Ireland

By Marcus Eliasson

The Associated Press

LONDON — After a prolonged warm spell, Anglo-Irish relations appear to be going into a dangerous free fall over a spate of incidents involving the conduct of British security forces in Northern Ireland.

Recent U.S. government positions vis-a-vis the Middle East have destroyed American credibility. The U.S. veto of the recent Security Council resolution and Shultz's public support of the Israeli position regarding the ship of returning deportees makes American support for an earlier Security Council resolution condemning the deportations seem like a joke.

The Americans' continuing rejection of Palestinian rights to self-determination, while pushing for this right for other peoples, leaves much to be desired concerning the consistency of U.S. foreign policy.

Recent U.S. government positions vis-a-vis the Middle East have destroyed American credibility. The U.S. veto of the recent Security Council resolution and Shultz's public support of the Israeli position regarding the ship of returning deportees makes American support for an earlier Security Council resolution condemning the deportations seem like a joke.

The harmony was jolted on Jan. 25 when the British government announced that, having investigated the shooting of six unarmed Roman Catholics by Northern Ireland police in 1982, authorities had uncovered evidence of a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, yet no policemen would be prosecuted.

In the same week, matters worsened when a British court rejected the appeal of six Irishmen who claim they were wrongfully convicted of a 1974 bombing attack in mainland Britain that killed 21 people.

The British government said that despite the ruling, it continued to believe a miscarriage of justice had occurred.

Minister Margaret Thatcher pointedly warned the Irish to keep their investigation to their own side of the border.

She also voiced annoyance at Dublin's behaviour on the extradition issue.

But then, Tuesday, the army dropped a fresh bombshell. It announced that Pvt. Ian Thain, the only British soldier ever jailed for life for killing a civilian in Northern Ireland, was free on parole and back in his regiment, having served only three years of his term.

Even the conservative Daily Telegraph, which usually takes Britain's side in disputes with Ireland, called it an act of "stunning insensitivity."

Among Northern Ireland's



A barefoot boy travelling to work early morning in Northern Shoa, Ethiopia

Barefoot revolution sweeps Third World

By Peter Millership
Reuter

LONDON — The people of the Third World are refusing to become institutionalised beggars and are banding together in small communities to dig themselves out of poverty, says a new report for "The Club of Rome."

Entitled "The Barefoot Revolution", it brands the past 20 years of development effort, characterised by sophisticated Western-style projects, as a costly disaster and looks at new small-scale farm, health and education programmes across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The report is written by Bertrand Schneider, Club of Rome's secretary general. Founded 20 years ago, the club is an informal grouping of government leaders, scientists, economists and business who seek to influence national policies by recommending new strategies.

"Rural development in the Third World is not only a life and death matter for two billion peasants, but also a problem affecting the peace and security

of every nation," Schneider says. His report focuses on the spread of self-help, grassroots projects started by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — seen as the new agents of change.

This new trend is radically changing the tenets of development that have prevailed until now, for it entails a complete overhaul of 20 years of economic strategy that has not fulfilled its promises," the report said.

Published as a book in Britain on Thursday (February 25), the report calls on governments and financial institutions to recognise so-called NGOs as fully-fledged agents of development and to support them with appropriate funding.

"In view of the failure of 20 years of development efforts patterned on Western industrial society's models, it is clearly time to try less ambitious and more pragmatic approaches," it says.

Disastrous projects

Engineers and water experts now say most of the giant water

projects undertaken in the Third World since the 1960s have been disasters and have had devastating ecological effects displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

The construction of Egypt's Aswan High Dam, seen as a

daring step to modernise a poor country, wrecked tracts of farmland and destroyed the country's sardine industry, the report says.

In Tanzania, a farming project in Arusha was far too intensive for the valley's delicate tropical ecology and the entire multi-million dollar scheme had to be rethought.

Brazil's debt has been aggravated by enormous construction projects.

The report says that in Africa, as in Latin America, food-sufficiency is undermined by spending scarce cash on huge agro-industrial schemes to grow cash crops for export.

In terms of feeding hungry people, the results have been devastating. African food production has dropped 1.4 per cent annually since the 1960s, the report says.

Half of humanity still lives in

want, malnutrition and misery, says Schneider, who told Reuters in an interview: "We want the cause of underdevelopment attacked, not (just) the consequences."

NGOs aim to provide training in the field and encourage the innovation and use of simple, local technology. They can be local or foreign. There are numerous NGO liaison offices set up within the United Nations and its regional bodies.

NGOs

The report, which used statistics gathered by six teams of researchers visiting 93 projects in 19 countries as well as additional material from 230 other projects, said there is a vast NGO network.

NGOs were engaged initially in charitable activities providing emergency assistance, food aid and medical care.

Many NGOs, believe that once emergency measures have been taken, the real causes of underdevelopment should be addressed as only then does the real battle begin.

NGOs can experience problems in their work.

Foreign NGOs can be regarded with suspicion. In Bolivia, researchers were told by local people they were distrustful of some groups which have been accused of working with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

In a troubled political environment some groups might wish to reap political gains from NGO actions.

There can be scrapes with authority.

At times NGOs have deliberately ignored governments. Some short-circuit official attempts to control their activities and funding by working under the umbrella of non-profit church groups.

Bureaucrats can penalise NGOs with taxes and licenses. Sometimes peasants are resentful about NGOs.

"We do not want to be shamefully dependent on the projects of foreign organisations. We know the solution to our problems will never be in begging for crumbs from aid organisations," an Ecuadorian peasant group was quoted as saying.

Help can also have political overtones.

"The gringos (foreigners) come and present us with a tractor. But when we ask for land to use this tractor on, they treat us like Communists," the peasant group said.

The report says that in some areas, "through their struggle against the abuse of power by officials or bureaucrats they (NGOs) uphold the rights of the rural poor.

"In these cases NGOs may even themselves become factors of political instability."

The report said NGOs were often becoming more streamlined and efficient to impress government aid donors and funding institutions.

Important spheres of influence apart from schooling, food and health were land problems, corruption, population growth, migration and preservation of local culture.

Schneider says the NGO phenomenon is "the beginning of a crusade by two billion peasants for their daily food and for their dignity."

Sammy and Rosie incur the wrath of the establishment

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

LONDON — "While London burns..." announce the posters against a background of waste land, fires and riot police, "Sammy and Rosie get laid."

So runs the publicity for "Sammy and Rosie get laid", a newly-released state-of-Britain film whose angry swipes at life under a right-wing government in the 1980s have caused a furore.

Its title, which shocked U.S. distributors when the film was released there in October, prompted several regional British newspapers to say they might not advertise or review it as it goes on national release this month.

The Sunday Times, a national newspaper, ran an article by Ox-

ford University history professor Norman Stone calling it a prize example of left-wing propaganda and "general disgustingness."

The outrage over "Sammy and Rosie" has added fuel to recent debate over freedom of expression in Britain, which opposition parties say has been threatened by government injunctions on books and television programmes and legislation which would ban local councils from "promoting homosexuality."

Divided Britain

The film depicts a Britain torn apart by racism, violence and an irreconcilable gap between the haves and have-nots, centering on the open house and open marriage of accountant Sammy

and Rosie, a social worker.

"England seems to have become a squalid, ugly and uncomfortable place," the film's scriptwriter Hanif Kureishi wrote recently. "Its government, has attacked most forms of legitimate opposition. The few areas of freedom and dissent left are contracting fast."

The film opens with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 1987 general election victory speech promising improvements in the inner cities. At the end, bulldozers flatten a makeshift community of homeless people living in caravans and shacks underneath a motorway flyover.

Featuring race riots in the street and multiracial couplings in bed (three of which are shown simultaneously on a split screen),

its characters include, in Rosie's words, "the usual social deviants, Communists, lesbians and blacks, with a sprinkling of mentally maladjusted to start the dancing."

The £1.5 million (\$2.6 million) production is the work of Kureishi and director Stephen Frears, whose previous low-budget story of a homosexual relationship between two Londoners, one white and one Asian, "My Beautiful Laundrette," was an unlikely international hit.

Salacious'

Kureishi originally wanted the new film's title to be a straight four-letter word, but even in its modified form it has been called "Salacious" on both sides of the Atlantic.

British morality campaigner Mary Whitehouse, whose organisation the National Viewers and Listeners Association lobbies against what it sees as obscenity, said in a newspaper interview: "The title of the film certainly crosses the boundaries of good taste."

"Indeed, to have it displayed on cinema billboards where anyone can see it amounts, in my opinion, to a public nuisance."

U.S. newspapers including the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times insisted on shortening it to "Sammy and Rosie" in their advertising in line with the Motion Picture Association of America which refused to register the title as it stood. The state of Ohio banned the film altogether.

In his Sunday Times article entitled "sick scenes from English life," Stone looked at six recent British releases including "Sammy and Rosie" and "Laundrette", calling them flat and two-dimensional.

"They represent at best a tiny part of modern England and, more likely, a nasty part of their producers' brains," he wrote.

Stone's article provoked an angry response from Kureishi, who wrote a few days later in the liberal daily *Guardian*: "Whenev-

er a right-wing newspaper calls one of our films 'sick' Stephen and I know we must be doing the right thing."

"Last September the Sunday Times wrote a leader in which they complained of Britain's intelligentsia always 'sniping from the sidelines.' I think this is euphemism for being critical."

God forbid that any artist should mention unemployment, or racism, or poverty."

Palace Pictures, distributors of

"Sammy and Rosie", said the film took \$3/2 million in its first three months in the United States, where it is still opening in major cities.

Box office earnings of £42,000 (\$73,500) for its first week at three London cinemas promise well for its future in this country too.

"What it is," said Roland Gift, one of the film's leading actors, "is a movie you don't forget too quickly."



Claire Bloom as Alice, Shashi Kapoor as Rafi and Suzette Llewellyn as Vivia in Sammy and Rosie Get Laid

Workaholic Germans embrace the easy life

By Mark Heinrich

Reuter

BONN — West Germans, renowned for their hard work in rebuilding their country from the ruins of World War II, are embracing the any easy life — many to such an extent that they spend their spare time doing nothing at all.

Since the completion of the postwar "economic miracle" in the 1960s, West Germany's working week has shrunk to among the world's shortest, ranging from 37 to 40 hours.

The country is also a leader in public holidays — up to 20 days a year in some states — in addition to a guaranteed five or six weeks of paid annual leave.

Shops have some of the shortest opening hours in the West with a mandatory half day on Saturday. Restaurant kitchens commonly close at 10:30 p.m.

The attitude is, from the ruins of the war we worked and earned money like crazy and acquired everything material there is to have, and now, let's enjoy it," said Horst Opaschowski of the Hamburg-based Leisure Research Institute.

With so much time off and so much money to spend — 220 billion marks (\$134 billion) went on leisure in 1985 — West Germans have become practiced idlers at home and keen travellers abroad.

"For a long time, perhaps until the 1960s, work stood at the very top of a German's scale of values. Since then, we've seen a reversal so that now the priorities are, in order, family, friends, leisure, job and education," Opaschowski told Reuters.

A 1983 poll, he said, showed

only 15 per cent of Germans proud of their job, compared to 37 per cent of Japanese, 69 per cent of Britons and 84 per cent of Americans.

The German Society for Leisure (DGF), aided by a 300 million mark annual government grant, has amassed statistics inviting the conclusion that West Germans are quite different from their international image.

The DGF's 1987 report said 76 per cent of West Germans enjoyed spending leisure time "doing nothing."

The most popular pursuits were watching television (90 per cent), reading newspapers (87 per cent), going for a walk (83 per cent) and visiting friends and family (82 per cent).

The least popular, the DGF said, were visits to museums and exhibitions (28 per cent) and artistic hobbies (18 per cent).

Some 56 per cent of the population devoted their spare time to acquiring a suntan.

"There's much more time to be active in your free time today, but also to be lazy. The most sought-after (holiday) leisure is lying spread-eagled in the sun all day," said Heinz-Rico Scherrieb, a social researcher in Wuerzburg.

"The vacation has become part of our life rhythm. In other countries, it's a special event," he said.

In summer, West Germany's motorways turn into vast traffic jams and millions head south to Europe's Mediterranean resorts during the peak holiday season. The jams are so bad that the German automobile club hires motorcycle riders to weave through the traffic to try to calm motorists' nerves.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Liverpool scrapes past Portsmouth to extend lead

LONDON (R) — A slice of luck and the skills of John Barnes came to Liverpool's rescue Saturday as they battled to a 2-0 victory at Portsmouth to move 14 points clear at the top of the English first soccer division.

Barnes scored both goals, striking after 49 and 85 minutes, to extend Liverpool's unbeaten start to the league season to 27 matches and end Portsmouth's own 10-match unbeaten run.

But it was an uncomfortable afternoon for the leaders who had to survive several periods of heavy Portsmouth pressure before stealing ahead and taking command.

Barnes' opening goal, after a typical burst of acceleration past his marker, came courtesy of a wicked deflection and the second at a time when Portsmouth were pressing hard for an equaliser.

With second-placed Manchester United and third-placed Nottingham Forest without matches, three of the pack involved in the chase for the runners-up spot and a possible place in Europe next season made the most of inviting home fixtures.

Fourth-placed Everton recovered from a traumatic week of two cup defeats by beating Southampton 1-0, fifth-placed Arsenal continued their crushing current form by disposing of struggling Charlton 4-0 and sixth-placed Queen's Park Rangers overcame London rivals Wimbledon, who were one place below them, 1-0.

Wimbledon's defeat meant it was a disappointing day for former England, Real Madrid and Marseille winger Laurie Cunningham who was making his league debut for the club.

Queen's Park Rangers' winner came from John Byrne after 81 minutes.

Everton, by contrast, secured their decisive goal against South-

English and Scottish football league standings

LONDON (R) — English and Scottish football league tables after Saturday's matches.

English Division One

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Liverpool	27	21	6	0	65	12	69
Manchester United	29	15	10	4	44	28	55
Nottingham Forest	26	14	7	5	50	24	49
Everton	27	14	7	6	39	16	48
Arsenal	28	14	6	8	43	26	48
Queens Park Rangers	28	13	7	8	33	30	46
Wimbledon	28	11	9	8	40	32	42
Luton	26	11	5	10	40	32	38
Tottenham	29	10	8	11	30	40	38
Sheffield Wednesday	29	11	4	14	34	48	37
Newcastle	27	9	9	9	34	39	36
Southampton	28	8	9	11	35	40	33
West Ham	28	7	11	10	29	36	32
Coventry	27	8	8	11	28	39	32
Chelsea	29	8	7	14	35	50	31
Norwich	28	8	6	14	26	34	30
Portsmouth	29	6	12	11	27	46	30
Derby	27	7	7	13	23	32	28
Oxford	27	6	7	14	32	53	25
Charlton	29	5	9	15	27	46	24
Watford	28	5	8	15	18	37	23

Scottish Premier Division

	Celtic	Rangers	Hearts	Aberdeen	Dundee United	Dundee	Hibernian	St. Mirren	Motherwell	Falkirk	Dunfermline	Morton	
	33	22	9	2	60	20	53	34	21	7	9	18	14
	33	22	9	2	60	20	53	34	21	7	9	18	14
	34	21	7	6	65	23	49	34	17	13	4	62	28
	34	17	13	4	62	28	47	34	17	13	4	48	21
	34	17	13	4	62	28	47	34	12	11	11	38	37
	34	12	11	11	38	37	35	33	14	6	13	59	43
	34	10	13	11	33	35	33	33	7	12	14	33	49
	34	9	7	18	26	46	25	34	9	7	18	32	59
	34	7	9	18	20	24	18	34	5	8	20	24	65
	34	2	10	22	22	76	14						

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Soviets clinch hockey gold

CALGARY (Agencies) — The Soviet Union wiped out a year of frustration with two weeks of brilliance, capping an awesome surge to its second straight Olympic hockey gold medal Friday with a 7-1 victory over Sweden.

In routing the world champion Swedes, the Soviets painted a portrait of hockey perfection.

They weaved, passed and shot and defended their way to their seventh gold in nine Olympics since winning their first gold in their first try back in 1956. They also won a silver and a bronze during that span, while posting a 53-4-2 record in Olympic competition.

Since losing in 1980 to the United States — the only other country to win the gold in the last 32 years — the Soviets have vented their anger on the rest of the world, winning 15 straight Olympic games. They are 7-0 this year, having outscored their opponents 43-11.

This latest triumph comes after a 1987 in which they failed to win the Calgary Cup, the world championships, the Canada Cup and their own Izvestia tournament.

However, it was a well-oiled machine that the world saw Friday night against Sweden, which took the championship last April.

Sweden, which was 0-4-2 against the Soviets during a 10-year run that ended in 1987, had two victories and two ties in the last year and seemed capable of putting a halt to the Soviet Union's Olympic domination.

But this Swedish squad differed sharply from its world championship and Canada Cup predecessors.

Canada snapped a medal-round scoreless streak of almost 200 minutes and then scored three times in a 1:34 span of the second period Friday, staying alive in the Olympic hockey bronze medal race with a 3-1 victory over West Germany.

With the Soviets victory over Sweden, Canada and West Germany remain alive for a bronze. A Soviet-Sweden tie would have eliminated West Germany but not Canada.

The Canadians had been outscored 11-0 in three medal-round games dating back to 1984 and didn't appear ready to score Friday, either.

West Germany, which had a surprising 4-1 record during divisional play but lost decisively to Finland in its medal-round opener, dominated the first period. The West Germans outshot Canada 17-7 and would have had a few goals were it not for the outstanding goaltending of Andy Moog.

After Witt's victory over Thomas in the short programme, the American leads overall with 2.0 points to 2.2 for Witt. With 1.0 to be added for the free programme winner and 2.0 for the runner-up, one of them will almost certainly

E. German sets sixth world record at Calgary; Swiss skier takes gold in two Alpine events

CALGARY (Agencies) — One of East Germany's speed demons on ice gave these Winter Games a sixth world record Friday, while Switzerland's Vreni Schneider became only the fifth woman to win two Alpine skiing gold medals in one Olympics.

Schneider, astonished to find herself in the lead, turned on more speed Friday to clinch victory in the women's slalom race.

No one was astonished, however, when Christa Rothenburger's triumph in the women's 1,000-metre speed skating brought the score to six world records in eight Olympic races so far on Calgary's windless indoor track, the first indoor speed skating rink ever used in an Olympics.

Rothenburger finished in 1 minute, 17.65 seconds, breaking the world record of 1:18.11 set by Kania in Calgary in December. Kania was .05 seconds behind. Blair was third in 1:18.31, and East German Andrea Ehng was fourth in 1:19.75.

In Alpine skiing, the medal battle has been between Switzerland and resurgent Austria. With Schneider's victory Friday, the gold score was 3-3, and two of the Swiss golds belong to the 23-year-old farm girl, who also won the giant slalom.

Mostly thanks to their speed on the cross country ski trials, a factor in the biathlon too, the Soviets now have a total of 26 medals in the 10 Winter Olympic sports and appear certain to win the overall medals race. They have won 13 medals, five of them gold, in cross country and four medals, including one gold, in biathlon. One cross country race remains, the men's 50-kilometre marathon Saturday.

But the East Germans, now trailing the 10-8 in gold medals, have a chance to catch up in the gold column. They are among the favourites in two remaining women's speed skating races and a bobbed competition, and Katarina Witt battles Saturday to defend her Olympic title in women's figure skating.

The East Germans have 19 medals in all after Friday night's speed skating, in which American Bonnie Blair, the 500-metre gold medalist, prevented an East German

man medal sweep by taking the bronze.

Silber medalist Karen Kania, defending Olympic champion at 1,000 metres, won the silver medal. It was her seventh medal in three Olympics, making her the most successful woman Olympian in her sport.

She said that Friday's first run, "I did not attack ... and I was astonished when I saw I was in first place" — by 0.01 second over Camilla Nilsson of Sweden.

In the second, "I did not think about my first-run advantage. I knew I had to run fast in the second heat to win the gold, and I pushed throughout my run," she added.

Nilsson, watched by Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf, lost her chance when she straddled a gate about 20 seconds into her second run.

"But that did not change my (attacking) attitude toward the run," said Schneider, who leads the world cup slalom standings and is tied with teammate Michaela Figgis for the overall lead.

The spectators included women in shorts and shirtless men as

1988 Winter Olympics

"warm southerly winds continued to bring springlike temperatures to the winter games. Temperatures at some places in the Calgary area went into the high teens C (60s F) for the second consecutive day.

Schneider skied the first run in 48.81 seconds and, in 47.88, is nearly a half-second faster than anyone else in the second. Her total was 1 minute, 36.69 seconds.

Matja Svet was second in 1:38.37, winning Yugoslavia's first Alpine medal in these games, and Christa Kinshofer-Guenther of West Germany, silver medalist in the giant slalom, was third in 1:38.40.

In the biathlon, which combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship, Frank-Peter Roetsch of East Germany had won the 20- and 10-kilometre individual titles, but in Friday's relay his efforts on the second leg were enough only to move his team up from 12th to fifth, a position it kept to the end.

East German leadoff man Jürgen Wirth missed three times on the shooting lap and had to ski the 150-metre penalty loop three times. That knocked the East Germans out of contention.

In Saturday's games, Alberto Tomba is exuding confidence as he goes after his second gold medal in the men's slalom, the final Alpine event of the Winter Olympics.

Soviet officials play down ethnic unrest

Casualties reported in Azerbaijan disturbances

By Robin Lodge
Reuter

MOSCOW — A number of people have been injured in clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in a disputed region of Soviet Azerbaijan, officials there said.

The officials, speaking by telephone from Stepanakert, capital of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, told Reuters crowds of people were massed on the streets, while factories and schools had been closed.

The officials said Soviet Deputy Public Prosecutor Alexander Katushev was investigating the clashes, which they said occurred some 10 days ago in an outlying part of the region.

One official, who declined to be named, said huge crowds of people carrying placards demanding the reunification of the territory with Armenia, from which it was removed in 1923, were holding meetings in the street.

"There have been meetings at every enterprise, at every working collective, and at district councils. All people demanded reunification," she said.

She said one banner reading "Karabakh is crying while Moscow remains silent" had been removed after an appeal for calm by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was read out on television and radio Friday.

"Perhaps some of the most aware people tried to think about that, but the masses expect a new resolution from Moscow," one official said.

In a speech in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, Wednesday — the text of which reached Moscow Saturday — another senior Kremlin official, Vladimir Dolgikh, said the Politburo had met in urgent session last Sunday.

"The Politburo demanded that the central committees of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parties took every measure to normalize the situation," Dolgikh said.

One million protesters'

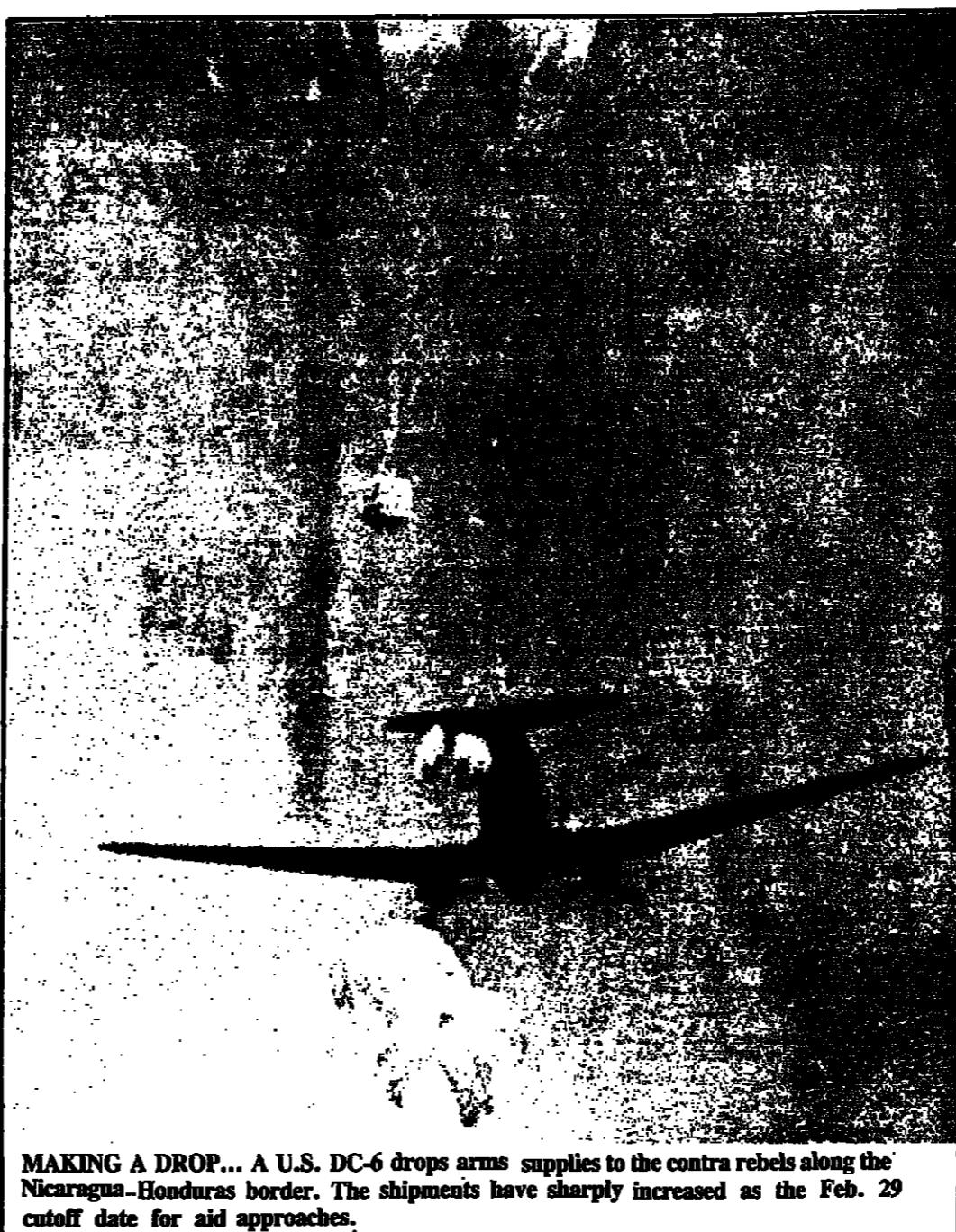
Demonstrations by tens of thousands of Armenians in Yerevan in support of their compatriots in Nagorno-Karabakh have been held over the past nine days.

Eyewitnesses said Friday that an estimated million people packed the streets.

"They're coming from all over Armenia and even from Russian cities like Rostov and Krasnodar," one Yerevan resident said by telephone.

The demonstrators were again on the streets Saturday, in direct challenge to Gorbachev's appeal for order.

The show of disobedience was apparently backed by Armenian party chief Karen Demirchyan, who addressed the crowds Friday.



MAKING A DROP... A U.S. DC-6 drops arms supplies to the contra rebels along the Nicaragua-Honduras border. The shipments have sharply increased as the Feb. 29 cutoff date for aid approaches.

NATO assess strength

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — NATO's naval commander in southern Europe said Friday the allies would defeat the Soviets in the Mediterranean even if NATO was hit by a surprise attack.

"Their surface forces are easy to find, and would not last long after the start of hostilities," said Adm. Sergio Majoli. "Their danger lies in being able to launch a pre-emptive strike and causing catastrophic damage to major NATO units before we are granted political approval to strike back."

"As a defensive alliance, we are at a severe disadvantage during the opening stages of hostilities," Majoli said Friday at a seminar on security in the central and western Mediterranean.

Adm. James B. Busey, the American commander in chief of allied forces in southern Europe, told the same seminar the Warsaw Pact has a clear superiority over NATO troops in the region.

He disputed recent comments by Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri I. Yazov that a numerical edge for Warsaw pact forces central Europe was offset by NATO superiority in southern Europe.

The Warsaw Pact has more warplanes and about 71 divisions of troops facing 41 allied divisions in northern Italy, Turkey and Greece, said Busey.

Majoli noted that the Mediterranean is more important to NATO than the Soviets.

Reagan blurs talk of U.S. intervention in Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan says he has no plan to intervene militarily in Panama in what U.S. officials viewed as a situation brought on at least in part by drug-smuggling indictments of strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

But the State Department said Friday the United States will continue to recognise Eric Arturo Delvalle as president of Panama, despite a parliamentary vote to oust him and replace him with Noriega, to take on our troops."

The president said the United States did not instigate Delvalle's move Thursday. But he also said U.S. officials had been "very much aware of it."

'Intervention not answer'

Asked whether the United States was contemplating military intervention there, Reagan replied, "no, I don't think that's an answer." He declined to discuss

other alternatives, saying: "We're not prepared to come up with any answers as yet."

Reagan said he thought "there are some limits on what we can do," but that "we're looking at that situation, and our people are meeting on it to see if there's anything we can do."

Bush stopped short of calling for military intervention, however, saying the United States' past history of intervention in Latin American affairs is "what's hurting us in some areas now." Some 10,000 American troops are stationed in Panama.

In Congress, the Reagan administration got conflicting advice on how to handle the situation.

Senate Democrats urged caution, while D'Amato advocated the trade embargo and Senator Jesse Helms called Noriega "a bum" and said "he ought to be thrown out."

Delvalle vs. Noriega

In Mexico City, a number of Latin American leaders have expressed support for Delvalle, but Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is backing Noriega, in what is seen as another attempt to rule the United States.

A communiqué published Friday in the Nicaraguan newspaper Barricada said Ortega "has assured Gen. Noriega that the Panamanian people, facing threats, blackmail and the danger of American troop intervention, could count on the militant and combative solidarity of the people of Sandino."

The communiqué from Nicaragua's Sandinista government said Ortega, in a telephone call to Noriega Thursday night, offered "unconditional solidarity to save the sovereignty of Panama in these moments when the Amer-

ican government is trying to kill the spirit of Torrijos."

Gen. Omar Torrijos, the nationalist leader after staging a 1968 coup in Panama, became a national hero by negotiating with the United States the transfer of ownership to Panama in 1999 of the American-built Panama Canal. He died in a plane crash in 1981.

In Panama City, Delvalle has vowed to remain President of Panama and called for a national strike to repudiate the leadership of Noriega.

Also Friday, Noriega accused the United States of instigating the failed effort to end his rule, accusing Washington of waging a campaign of "psychological warfare" against him.

The Panamanian legislature voted Friday to oust Delvalle after the president tried to fire Noriega.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Sudanese beheaded in Jeddah over girl

RIYADH (R) — A Sudanese man, who stabbed to death a colleague in a row over a girl in Sudan, was beheaded in Jeddah after Friday's noon prayers, the Saudi Interior Ministry said Saturday. Mubarak Fadhel Al-Mawla Abdul-Ghani was the sixth convicted murderer to be executed in Saudi Arabia in two weeks.

U.S. judge dismisses \$1.5b lawsuit

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The widow of Challenger astronaut Michael Smith cannot sue the U.S. government for \$1.5 billion in damages because her husband was on military duty when the space shuttle exploded, a judge has ruled. U.S. District Judge Patricia Fawcett cited earlier court decisions holding that American military personnel or their dependents could not sue the government for injury or death while on active service. Smith, the Challenger's pilot, was a navy captain who was assigned to NASA in 1981. "Smith's death occurred during activity incident to his military service," the judge said in removing the government as a defendant in the suit filed by Jane J. Smith.

Sotheby's to auction Soviet art

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Union will have its first international art auction in July when Sotheby's holds a sale of contemporary Soviet works, the auction house announced Friday. Lord Gowrie, former arts minister in the British government and now chairman of the world's largest auctioneers, said about 100 paintings by more than 20 contemporary Soviet painters will be put up for sale July 7 at the International Trade Centre. "I hope this will be the first of a series of auctions," said Sergei Popov, an official in the Soviet Ministry of Culture, who joined Gowrie at a news conference. "We chose Sotheby's because they have an international name," said Popov through an interpreter. Asked if the auctioned works would be of "unofficial" artists as well as those whose work is approved by the Soviet Union of artists, Popov replied: "There are no longer any unofficial artists. For the past three years there have been no restrictions on any style or tendency in art."

James Bond moves to Mexico

LONDON (R) — Secret agent James Bond is packing his licence to kill and moving to Mexico City to save money, the Star newspaper said Saturday. The tabloid said it had become too expensive to go on filming the exploits of agent 007 in Britain. The decision to leave London's Pinewood Studios, where the Bond movies have been made for 25 years, to Mexico would save producers more than three million pounds sterling (\$3.3 million), it said. But Bond productions will still be a largely British affair, and producers plan to take British technicians and actors south of the Rio Grande, the Star said.

'Uncle Sam, statesman — and sucker'

NEW YORK (AP) — Excerpts from an editorial entitled "Uncle Sam, statesman — and sucker" in Saturday's editions of the New York Times said: "Every American president has to decide what the nation's interests are in a given foreign country and how much influence the U.S. can have over that country's policies. President Reagan this week demonstrated reasonable success in his calculations concerning South Korea — and ugly failure in his miscalculations concerning South Africa. South Korea took another step toward democracy, inaugurating a president elected in a relatively free and fair vote. Washington has had influence in the process and used it constructively. South Africa moved sharply backward. It banished the activities of the leading anti-apartheid organisations, cutting off virtually all nonviolent means of protest. In this case, America has negligible influence. Yet it has deluded itself with its policy of 'constructive engagement.' Now it succeeds only in tying America more closely to the oppressors in Pretoria... Reagan administration officials fell into the trap of thinking that they could develop a common anti-communist interest with Pretoria... the important thing, the administration reckoned, was not to scold Pretoria publicly. 'Such folly, like the larger delusion of 'constructive engagement,' will impose a destructive price on future administrations."

Workers discover 2,000-year-old road

TORTOSA, Spain (R) — Workers repairing a Spanish country lane found part of a perfectly-preserved 2,000-year-old Roman road underneath it, officials said Wednesday. The three kilometre stretch of the Via Augusta, which ran from Rome to Cadiz on the southwestern tip of Spain, was found near the town of Tortosa in northeast Spain last week and is now being examined by archaeologists. "It is in perfect condition," said Ramon Miravall, in charge of cultural affairs in Tortosa, and one of the most important Roman finds in Spain of recent years. The only restoration it needed was cleaning off topsoil. He said the road so far uncovered was clearly identifiable, being the standard Roman width of 8.7 metres, made of "Roman concrete" reinforced by diagonally-laid stones with drains running alongside. There could be a much longer stretch to be found in the area, Miravall said.

AIDS commission wants additional \$1 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of President Ronald Reagan's AIDS commission wants to spend an additional \$1 billion a year to fight the disease, but the White House budget director said Thursday that Reagan's budget proposal was big enough. The AIDS panel director, retired Navy Adm. James D. Watkins, asked Wednesday for the federal increase plus \$1 billion in new state and local spending. He said 75 per cent of the \$2 billion was needed just to combat intravenous drug abuse, which spreads the deadly virus. Reagan has asked Congress for \$1.3 billion to combat AIDS in the United States for fiscal 1989, up from \$951 million for this year.

22 arrested on sex charges

MANILA (R) — At least 22 foreigners caught naked in bed with young Filipina girls were arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing children Saturday. Immigration Commissioner Miriam Santiago told reporters. Americans, Britons, Belgians, Canadians, Dutch, Germans, Spaniards and one Japanese, ranging in age from 55 to 60, were detained in a series of raids in the tourist resort of Pagsanjan Town, south of Manila, together with 19 Filipino boys. "They were caught naked in bed with some of the children," said immigration intelligence officer Maridel Ferman. Assorted sexual gadgets and pornographic photographs of teenage boys were seized in the raids, Santiago said. The foreigners refused to be interviewed and covered their faces when photographers tried to take their pictures.

Former Dunhill tobacco chairman dies

LONDON (AP) — Mary Dunhill, the last surviving child of Alfred Dunhill, founder of the tobacco and pipe-making company, has died at the age of 81, death notices said Saturday. Miss Dunhill, the only daughter among Dunhill's four children, joined the board of Dunhill Holdings in 1944, explaining "they were rather short of men" and in 1961 became chairman, succeeding her eldest brother, Alfred. The cause of Miss Dunhill's death Wednesday was not revealed. "Miss Mary," as she was known, became president on her retirement as chairman in 1975, and continued to work at her office two days a week. Her autobiography, "our family business," was published in 1979. She is survived by her second husband, Rex Lane, and her two daughters by her first marriage to Geoffrey Holman, who died in 1953.

Hopes of breakthrough in East-West security

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Soviet and U.S. delegates to a stalled East-West conference on European security and cooperation said Friday the meeting could pick up momentum in the coming weeks as a draft final document begins to take shape.

In a plenary speech, the head of the Soviet delegation said East and West had agreed on some language in the field of human rights, but a U.S. delegate said the West would still like to see more concrete progress on human rights issues in the East bloc countries.

S. Africa police arrest 14 whites

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police Friday arrested 14 white women protesting the crackdown on black opposition groups and issued a banning order to the last top official of the United Democratic Front still operating freely.

At the university of Cape Town, 2,000 students and staff assembled to denounce the government's ban on political activity by the UDF, the country's largest anti-apartheid coalition, and 17 other groups.

"The battle has only just begun," said the Rev. Allan Boesak, one of the UDF's founders, at the campus rally. "We have decided we will resist. Our commitment starts right now."

The 14 members of Black Sash civil rights group were arrested as they carried placards in Durban. They were taken to police headquarters, told they were being charged with participating in an illegal gathering, then released.

Early Friday, Azhar Cachalia, treasurer of the United Democratic Front, was served with a restriction order prohibiting him from speaking to the press, publishing any statement or participating in activities of the UDF or other anti-apartheid organisations.

Cachalia had been the only UDF Executive Committee member not in hiding, in custody or restricted from UDF activities. The 5-year-old coalition has 600 affiliates with about 2 million members.

When the government Wednesday banned the UDF and 17 other opposition groups from political activity, it also issued restrictive orders against 18 senior black leaders, including UDF co-presidents Archie Gumedze and Albertina Sisulu.

In a related development, the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Commerce met Friday with Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok to discuss the feuding between UDF supporters and members of the Zulu political organisation, Inkatha. More than 400 people have been killed in the past year in fighting between the groups for control of black areas in Natal province.

The new government of President Roh Tae-Woo released 2,134 people from jails Saturday and 5,100 others had their sentences reduced or their civic rights restored. Some 125 political dissidents were among those freed and 1,606 others had their sentences reduced or regained their rights.

The letter is the latest in a frosty exchange between Ortega and Obando. They have blamed each other for the breakdown of talks last week in a dispute adding a new threat to shaky negotiations, Western diplomats said.

Ortega said the government was willing to discuss creating special cease-fire zones, supplies for rebels operating in the truce areas and the establishment of special ceasefire commissions.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE NUMBER IS THE KEY

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ 7 3

J 5 2

K 7 2

♦ A Q J 5 2

WEST

EAST

♦ 10 8 6 4 2

K 8 7 4

Q 9

♦ 8 4

SOUTH

♦ A K J

A 9 6 3

A 6 5 4

♦ 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

We are always wary about giving an answer when someone asks us about the right way to play a particular suit combination. We were burned many years ago when we were given the club holding that appears in the diagram and we replied that we would finesse the jack.

Considered in isolation, that reply was undoubtedly correct. In the context of the whole hand, however, we could not have been further from the truth!

With a combined 27 high-card

points, it might seem the hand should present no problem. Certainly, that is what the way declarer approached his task after West led a spade against three no trump